

Lairg & District Community Initiatives

Minutes from Board Meeting held on 27th January 2022

Lairg Community Hall

In attendance: Kaye Hurrion (KH), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Annette Parrott (AP), Alison Magee (AM) Chris Powell (CP), Kirstin Langlois (Project Officer) KL,

Apologies: Jan Blackwell (JB), Dr Rosie Reid (RR),

Item	Action
<p>1. Approve Minutes/ Matters arising that are not on the agenda.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by AM and seconded by KH.</p>	
<p>2. Ferrycroft Play Park</p> <p>AM has contacted Phil Tomalin, unfortunately despite the HC owning the land, the 50k Scottish Government Funding went to HC Amenities but apparently Ferrycroft is not covered in this budget so AM would like to go back to the Highland Council with a series of questions to gain clarity on the situation and to establish who has budgetary responsibility. KH asked AM if she would be able to attend the next CC meeting to update them on Wed 3rd March.</p>	
<p>3. Care and well-being</p> <p>KH spoke about Graeme Myles the new solicitor who specialises in the sale of land between charities has been in touch. He made contact with Susan and KH. Taking our own solicitor advise to get an expert was exactly the right thing to do as this sort of MOU is complicated and needs to be done right, yes it is frustrating but we do not want to miss anything. We are hoping to set up a meeting with him soon, either in person or over zoom.</p>	
<p>4. Helping Hands Fund</p> <p>The Helping Hands Fund has received another application that has been referred to us by CAB.</p> <p>This means that we have had 13 clients apply since last April – the total amount allocated already is: £3240. (However, we are still waiting for evidence from several clients so the actual amount spent is £1990.00) Plus the expenses.</p> <p>Changes to Kyle of Sutherland Helping Hand Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Savings benchmark limit has been increased to £2,500. Does LDCI wish to adopt the same approach as above? The board agreed to increase to this amount to reflect the increase in energy prices.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDCI now has to send evidence with the referral email to ECSCAB, this evidence is three consecutive months of their latest bank statement(s). 	
<p>5. Magazine Update: KH mentioned that there had been a lot of copy in January so the Magazine was 12 pages.</p>	
<p>6. Health walk:</p> <p>KL reported that there were 6 of us (including Jan & I) at the walk earlier this week, (Angela & her husband, another new person and a regular). We did have 3 others turn up but they said that they would go at their own pace as one of them didn't feel well enough to do the full walk.</p> <p>Through the HTSI Health Walks coordinator, we are hoping to hold a walk to promote Versus Arthritis in February – I'll contact the surgery to ask if we can promote this through them.</p> <p>In March we are hoping to have the countryside ranger join us for a Nature walk on the 29th March. We may also have a walking group from Tongue come down to join us on that day.</p>	
<p>7. Church Hill woods improvements / Shelter:</p> <p>KL is in the process of applying to the Ward discretionary fund for the balance to build the shelter. The deadline is the 10th Feb – with decisions made on the 14th. This would match the £3500 of match funding received from the COMMUNITIES RECOVERY FUND 2 which needs to be spent by the end of March.</p> <p>Some clearing of the area still needs to be done. Ask Carl Porter and Norman McLeod to help.</p>	
<p>8. War Memorial Centenary:</p> <p>KH updated that she had received an email from Colin Gilmore who helped to organise the Centenary celebration in Rosehall. He provided advice and sent a copy of the order of service.</p> <p>The next step is to have a meeting with Sheila Stewart Deputy Lieutenant later this week to discuss ideas and to hear her thoughts. KH invited other board members to attend if they wish.</p>	

<p>Plan to contact the different groups to see how they might want to get involved... (Churches, Gala week committee and Crofters show amongst others.)</p>	
<p>9. Queens Canopy / Woodland Trust Trees / Ferrycroft 15mins</p> <p>On 25th January KL & RJ met a representative from Nature Scot at Ferrycroft to walk the LDCI land and she is going to look into whether the land might be suitable for planting. At the moment she thought it could have potential, as there are trees growing on there, and there is a lot of grasses but we will need to get a peat sample taken to establish if it is peatland. (If it is there are still possible conservation measures that could be taken.) A more in depth survey will need to be done later in the season. She said she could also look into possible funding sources, but she also said that the Woodland Trust could possibly assist. She is also the public access officer for Nature Scot so she will be a good contact to have if we wanted to do a boardwalk or path...</p> <p>It probably won't be able to tap into the Queens Green canopy for this site but there should be other funding options.</p>	
<p>10. SA Site / Containers</p> <p>RJ Suggested that it could be a good idea to allow community groups who are looking for storage to either buy a container and pay a peppercorn rent on the site, or LDCI could buy one and they pay rent to cover the costs. LDCI could put up a hedge to screen the area.</p>	
<p>11.HIE Strategy request</p> <p>KH advised that LDCI has approached HIE to ask for support in developing a long term strategy. She will meet with Angela Simpson from HIE in early February to discuss matters.</p>	
<p>12. Station Path Project</p> <p>KL advised that she had heard back from Sustrans who said that they would not be able to award the Lairg Station Path funding at this time mainly due to the fact that the current proposed path is unlikely to fit within the existing road corridor, and that it was very competitive with 25 applications submitted from all over Scotland.</p>	
<p>13.AOB</p> <p>KH discussed the possibility of LDCI opening up a Community Larder in Lairg. KH, KL, and RJ to meet with CFine to discuss practicalities. Ideally it</p>	

would be best to have other partners if we were to rent a new space in the HIE property that has currently come on the market.	
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RJ advised that Eilidh Coll from Foundation Scotland will not be handling Lairg Windfarm applications any more. She is being replaced by Chris Lee. Fiona Morrison from SSE will also be leaving in the Autumn.	
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